

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 02252 091742Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS TORONTO 2252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ETRN, ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: GREYHOUND BUS ROUTES OPPOSITION MOUNTING

REF: TORONTO 2207

1. THE NATIONALIST TORONTO STAR APPEARS TO HAVE ADOPTED THE DISPUTE OVER THE PROVINCE'S AWARD TO GREYHOUND LINES OF CANADA OF A SHARED FRANCHISE ON TWO EXPRESS INTER-CITY BUS ROUTES WITH THE PUBLICALLY OWNED GRAY COACH LINES AS THE CURRENT CAUSE IN THE NEWSPAPER'S CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO "SAVE" CANADA FROM AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DOMINATION.

2. TWO FRONT PAGE SIGNED ARTICLES IN THE DEC. 8 ISSUE ADDRESSED GRAY COACH NEED TO DROP RURAL ROUTES IF DEPRIVED OF MONEY-MAKING BUFFALO AND SUDBURY ROUTES AND PROVIDED A FEATURE ON FIRST GRAY COACH DRIVER WHO HAD RUN TO SUDBURY CANCELLED BY GREYHOUND TAKEOVER OF RUN UNDER SHARED FRANCHISE. TONE OF ARTICLES REFLECTED IN QUOTE FROM DRIVER: "I FOUND OUT AFTER I GOT THERE THAT I'D BEEN CANCELLED OUT BY THE AMERICANS."

3. IN SAME ISSUE, COLUNIST JOHATHON MANTHORPE COVERING PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, WROTE UNDER HEADLINE "WAFLING WORSENS GRAY COACH AFFAIR" THAT BY MISHANDLING OF CRITICISM BY OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC AND LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS, ONTARIO TRANSPORT MINISTER HAD TURNED MATTER "FROM A REASONABLY STRAIGHT FORWARD PROPOSITION" TO SOMETHING BECOMING A "RUNNING SORE ON THE BODY POLICICS (SIC) OF THE TORIES."

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PAGE 02 TORONT 02252 091742Z

4. EDITORIAL IN DEC. 8 STAR "THROWING LOCAL BUS SERVICE TO THE
HOUNDS" BEGAN "THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST INDECENT IN THE WAY THE
DAVIS GOVERNMENT SEEMS WILLING TO SACRIFICE THE BUS SERVICE
GRAY COACH LINES PROVIDES TO HUNDREDS OF SMALL ONTARIO
TOWNS - JUST TO HELP THE FORTUNES OF THE U.S. - CONTROLLED
GREYHOUND LINES." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED TO URGE PREMIER
DAVIS TO OVER-RULE THE FRANCHISE DECISION "FOR THE SAKE OF ONTARIO'S
SMALLER COMMUNITIES."
DIGGINS

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